

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2001      LB 92

CLERK:    LB 92, Mr. President, a bill introduced by Senator Cudaback. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:    Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Cudaback, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK:    Mr. Speaker, members, I don't want this to sound like a broken record. As you know, last year, I introduced this bill and it passed the body by a large margin; I don't think there was any opposition. And it's essentially the same bill, only actually this year we have documentation that there's more need for it than ever. You know, our census came out and Dawson County area is one of the fastest, percentage-wise, growth of anywhere in the state. So outside of the judicial court ordering it...not necessarily ordering it done but...I can't think of the name of it here, the Judiciary Resources Commission did their...did their study as they have to once a year, and they are recommending this...increasing a judge also. This judge is for the 11th District and it goes from three to four. Like I said, we introduced this last year and it passed the body, the Governor vetoed it out of the big picture issue. It wasn't anything against Dawson County or the area; it was simply the fact that the big picture didn't allow him to do it resource wise. But this year he has told me that he would sign the bill if it passed this body. But the 11th District includes counties of Arthur, Chase, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow and Thomas Counties. Like I said, Jim Cudaback is not saying this; the commission has recommended this. Same bill as last year, increases from four...from three to four. Senator Brashear, from the Judiciary Committee, has looked at this here. We came before the committee; the committee put the bill out with no opposition. At this time I think I will let Senator Brashear explain further the issues and so on, being as he probably is more acquainted with the subject than I am. So, Senator Brashear, if you would like, you can have part of my opening.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:    Senator Brashear, you have roughly seven